

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Republic of Ireland's Road Safety Authority Observes Alabama Driver Licensing,

Visits Birmingham Examining Office to Observe Latest Advances in Licensing

Alabama is one of two states slated for visits by representatives from the Republic of Ireland who are in the United States to observe advancements in driver license testing. A delegation from the Republic of Ireland's Road Safety Authority visited the Birmingham Driver License Examining Office Tuesday to view the state's automated knowledge testing system and preview the RoadTest skills testing system, a pilot project planned for implementation in Birmingham later this year.

Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy and Lt. Col. F.A. Bingham, along with driver license staff members, were on hand to welcome the RSA delegation and to demonstrate the automated license testing system.

"We are proud to offer the latest advances in driver license testing and pleased to demonstrate Alabama's licensing system for our friends from the Republic of Ireland," said Murphy. "A secure testing process is an important component in the department's overall efforts to ensure the integrity of Alabama's driver license. We are equally committed to ensuring efficient and timely service for our license customers."

Introduced in 2003 and available statewide since 2006, the automated knowledge test, or AutoTest, virtually eliminates paper in the testing and grading process and promotes security in license testing. RoadTest is designed to perform the same functions in road skills testing.

Viisage, vendor for Alabama's license testing equipment, coordinated the visit with the Department of Public Safety to demonstrate firsthand the cutting-edge license testing equipment available in Alabama and New York.

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